# Cocalico Pride 

## Summer 2019 <br> Volume 7, Issue 4

## SAVE THE DATE

## Alumni Association Events:

Board Meetings - 3rd Wednesday of the month

6/21/19-Golf Tournament
Cocalico Education Foundation:
9/7/19 - Community Yard Sale 9/28/19 - Screamin' Eagle 5K

Cocalico School District: 10/4/19 - Homecoming 10/6/19 - HS Fall Concert


## District Retwees

## RUTH KRAMER

Ruth started out her 40-year career at Cocalico as a coordinator for a state-funded math lab for grades $3-5$. After three years, she became a $2^{\text {nd }}$ grade teacher at Denver. Her final move was to Reamstown Elementary where she taught $5^{\text {th }}$ grade for three years. She finished out her career as a 3 rd grade teacher. During that time, she was the elementary math coordinator for 22 years and spent many summers working with the Lancaster Lebanon IU writing curriculum and teaching math. Ruth also liked to be involved in other ways. She added, "I was very involved with the PTA as a president, teacher liaison, and assembly coordinator. I was also involved with the Cocalico Education Association where I served as vice president at one time, teacher representative, and many years as a scholarship chair and membership chair. During her career, Ruth noticed a huge swing towards technology. She remembered, "The first computer that was purchased for the teachers and students to use was during my first year as the Math Lab Coordinator as a project for the lab. Now all teachers do most of the work and teaching using technology, and all the students have access to a computer. And honestly, many of my students are much better computer users than I am!" Another thing that has changed over the years is recess. Ruth recollected, "When I first started teaching the children had three recesses and, most of the time, I was outside monitoring the kids. They could play rough/chasing games like Red Rover and Boys Catch the Girls. The kids had to wear boots and snowsuits in the winter so that they could sled and play in the snow. Now we are down to one recess where recess aides monitor the children, and we can't go outside if the playground has snow on it!" Ruth cherishes many memories with the children. "I enjoyed the Halloween parties and costume parades, with the most memorable being the year we turned storage tubs into bumper cars for the kids, and I was the ride operator. I would make up Bingo games for all the holiday parties. Lucky the Leprechaun would visit and mess up the room, leaving gold coins for the children. We would decorate the tree and sing carols at Christmas, make friendship stew for Thanksgiving, and make heart-shaped origami packets for trading valentines. I will always treasure the time I spent with all of my students sitting together on the carpet reading to them EVERY day!" Ruth has a long list of things she will enjoy doing during retirement. She would like to volunteer at either a school, library, or hospital, especially if there's a chance to read to children. She plans to travel (hopefully by train because she loves to ride them). She plans to attend Eagles' football games, go to the Final 4 in 2020 to Atlanta, and travel to Glacier National park this summer. She also enjoys puzzles and Legos, and loves attending public sales and antiquing to look for old school things, pop-up books, and Cocalico memorabilia. There's no doubt, Ruth will stay busy! Congratulations on your retirement, Ruth!

## JERE KIMMICH



Before teaching at Cocalico, Jere started in 1985 at Wilson Southern Junior High and spent four years at Ephrata Middle School. While teaching at Cocalico, he also coached Girls' Basketball, Track, and Volleyball. He was the school newspaper advisor for 22 years and has been the director of high school theatre for 27 years. Jere has many fond memories including, having to spend the night with the cast of "Drood" during a blizzard, winning the first section title in girls' volleyball, and many others. Jere has also seen many changes during his career. He recounted, "Probably the biggest change educationally was the over reliance of standardized testing. Another change was watching the high school transform from an open classroom to the great facility it is today. It was very interesting, especially during construction. Also, going from purple ditto masters to the technology today was both exciting and challenging." What he remembered most was watching the students grow into young adults. He remarked, "Seeing them gain confidence and maturity both in the classroom and through extra- curriculars." He also enjoyed working with great colleagues over the years and seeing younger teacher develop and grow. Jere is looking forward to traveling during retirement. He added, "There are still quite a few places l'd like to see both in the US and throughout the world." He also plans to read as many books as possible and spend time with family. Congratulations, and we wish you well, Jere! (Continued on next page)



#### Abstract

SUSAN SNYDER After spending years at home raising her children, Susan decided to go back to college as a non-traditional student. In December of 1997, Susan graduated a few months shy of her daughter's high school graduation. Susan taught at Denver Elementary for 14 years and the Middle School for 7 years. Susan had many memorable moments over the years. She offered, "Any time you work with kids there are moments that are funny, touching, and memorable. My favorite moments are those when a student says, 'I loved that book you recommended! Can you help me find another?' I love bringing kids and literature together at every level, reading to kids, promoting books, sharing favorites, and hopefully passing along an appreciation if not a love of reading." Susan and her husband, John, will be celebrating 40 years of marriage this June, and they have four children and seven grandchildren. Susan is looking forward to having time for sewing, reading, writing, working in her yard, and playing with her grandchildren. She added, "l have always wanted to vacation in the fall when the weather is nice but the crowds are low, so we anticipate some autumn travels." Congratulations and enjoy your retirement, Susan!


## PHIL FASSNACHT

Phil has been with Cocalico for 35 years in many different capacities. He has taught Visual Communications; Engineering; Design and Architecture; Electronics; Wood; Metals; and Energy, Power and Transportation. He also coached 9th grade, JV and Varsity basketball for ten years. He most remembers when the walls went up in the high school and when they went back to block scheduling. Not only did Phil teach at Cocalico, he is a life-long resident. He added, "I grew up in the Cocalico School District. I went to Schoeneck Elementary School until 3rd grade and then went to the big town of Denver to finish elementary. I attended Cocalico Middle School and was the first class to graduate from the new high school in 1977. I am very lucky to call Cocalico my home." Phil looks forward to traveling, hunting, golfing and spending time with family during retirement. He and his wife Stephanie, will be spending time with their three daughters and new granddaughter. His daughter, Samantha, is a librarian in the Pottstown School District and mother to baby girl Nora Stephanie. His other daughter, Kayla, is currently a traveling nurse in Arizona, and his daughter, Olivia, is a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Emergent Media Mass Communications with a minor in Graphic Design. We wish you a wonderful retirement, Phil!


## KENT SWEIGART

During his time at Cocalico, Kent taught middle school math, science, health, and computer. He then became the Director of Technology from 2007 until his retirement. He also coached football, wrestling, and track at various levels. In addition, he taught various technology classes at IU13 and graduate classes through Wilkes University and Immaculata University. Kent experienced quite an amount of progress in technology during his tenure. He witnessed the changes from classroom wall phones, copy machines, air-conditioned classrooms, computers, the internet, email, projectors, cell phones, devices for all, Google, youtube, social media, data systems, and electronic grade books. Kent remembers his co-workers fondly. He noted, "I was impacted by many folks in my career including Dave Davies, Hank Walker, Bill Worley, Ann Small, Bruce Sensenig, Mark Schneiderhan, Dan Burkholder, and John Helter to name a few. They were encouraging and patient. They shared thoughts, and accepted questions and actions as professionals. My father, Floyd Sweigart, also provided observations, support and wisdom." Kent also added, "Building purposeful relationships with students, staff, and the community is what I enjoyed most about my career. If you are bored in your career in education, it isn't because you don't have the opportunity to be involved." Kent is hoping to see the sights, stay active, volunteer, and do home projects. He will also continue to teach classes at the university level. But what he most looks forward to is NOT having to make weather-related phone calls in the mornings. Congratulations, Kent, and Happy Retirement.

> Save the Date!
> Cocalico Class of 1979 will be having their 40th class reunion at Foxchase on Saturday, October, 19, 2019.



## September 21, 2019 $6 \mathrm{pm}-10 \mathrm{pm}$

## Foxchase Golf Club and Banquet Room 300 Stevens Road Stevens, PA 17578

More information to follow at a later date. Questions, please contact Tom or Debbie Henly at 717-741-7905 or Henly@dejazzd.com

## COCALICO CLASS OF 1969

## AUGUST 8TH AT 6:00 PM

Cocalico Alumni BBQ

## Stocking for Soldiers Fundraiser

Our BBQ at the Reinholds VFW was a huge hit! On Saturday, June 1st, over 150 pork and chicken dinners were served, and a full evening of cornhole was played. We raised just shy of $\$ 2,500.00$ ! Thank you to all who attended.


# Congratulations to our Newest Alumni! 



Alexis Paige Adkirs Lydia C. Athouse Edvard Thomas Arastasia Nikclas Logan Anderson Hallie Megan Angstaat
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Kayla Rense Burkholder
Andrew C. Caffrey
Micheel Harold Cage
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Cyle Timothy Clinch
Enily Paige Corred
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Wiliam Euck Critchfield
Taylor Ganri Curtert
Thomas Giovanri Cutugro, II
Cara J. Diciamo
Jacob Filey Digman
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Dane Riggin Dvanstkis
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Enn Leigh Eckman
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Marganet Anne Elner
Daniel M. Ergle
Brandon Lee Femell

Jada Arn Femel
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Sroderick A. Flinton
Madelyn Michael Frederick
Zachary G. Freeze
Nathan Frey
Ashley Elizabeth Fry
Addson L Frye
Melissa E. Gehrran
Wyatt Cakin Gehman
Rachel Marie Gehr
Josiah R. Geissinger
Nyla Kay Gensemer
Mason Scott Getz
Rebecca Lyrn Gideon
Samartha E. Gil
Alexandra Marie Gorzalez
Gamett K Good
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Chama Grasso
Lindsey Nichole Gray
Michael V. Graybill-DiStefano
Hanah N. Greenly
Madison Elizabeth Grimuood
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Karie Nicole Heft
Logan Blake Heilman
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Alyson Paige Himeisen
Gabriel James Hitchoock
Ethan Ellist Hoffmaster
Maximilian N. Hoimes
Joshua Michael Hoover
Taylor L. Homberger
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Racheel Ann Jornson
Ethan William Kane
Lucas Payne Filian
Bryce Robet Kimbel
Mason David Kister
Kjersten Nicole Kirk

Isabela M. Koh
Kyle Ray Kohl
Pabick Koller
Evan Kerneth Kreider
Austin Soott Landers
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Rowan Lapi
Jula Leedy
Landon S. Leirirger
Rose Marie Leis
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Brianna M Lipko
Evin Ealey Lippold
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Abigal Sue Lockkat
Austin Cade Logan
Gamett Ty Longenecker
Justin Lorgerecker
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Wison Mamero, Jt.
Ethan P. Martin
Joshua Lane Matin
Makenra Sheril Matin
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Nathaniel Lee Martzall
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# $\mathscr{O}$ bituarics 



Bradley Lee Sweigart, 47, of Denver, passed away on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at his home. He was born in Ephrata to Richard L. and Linda L. (Firestone) Sweigart and was the husband of Pamela S. (Brubaker) Sweigart, with whom he would have celebrated 23 years of marriage on August 3rd. Bradley was a member of Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reinholds and was a graduate of Cocalico H.S. He had been employed at Sweigarts Garage prior to owning/operating Brad's Cycles, and anyone that knew him, knew how much he loved his Harley. In addition to his parents and wife, Bradley is survived by 2 sons, Austin L. Sweigart and fiancee' Brooke A. Stover, and Dylin L. Sweigart ; 2 brothers, Chad L., husband of Alissa Sweigart, Jamie L. Sweigart; and 2 nephews, Jack and Jacob

Donald M. Wenger, 88, of Akron, passed away Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Born in Denver, he was a son of the late John E. and Gladys B. (Burkholder) Wenger. He was the husband of the late C. Virginia "Ginny" (Rathman) Wenger, married for 62 years until she passed in 2012. Donald graduated from East Cocalico High School, Class of 1948, and attended Wyomissing Poly-Tech Institute. He worked as a manufacturing engineer for 23 years at Shick, Inc., and for 13 years at Dental-ez. He was a member of Salem E \& R Church in Reamstown, where he had served as a choir member, elder, and deacon. Donald was a volunteer fireman and ran ambulance for Reamstown Fire Co . He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed small game and deer hunting. He and Ginny liked playing cards and eating out with friends. Most of all, Donald enjoyed spending time with his family at Rehoboth Beach, where he would go boating and clamming. Donald is survived by three children: Marcia A. (Gary) Kreider of Ephrata; Theresa F. (Ronald Jr.) Frisbie of Akron; and Ronald S. (Lisa) Wenger of Cape May, N.J.; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a sister Susanne Close. He was predeceased by his brother: John E. Wenger Jr.

Charles R. Henly, 89, of Ephrata, passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Ephrata Manor. He was born in Denver to the late Galen K. and Anna L. (Kegeraise) Henly. Charles was a U.S. Army veteran, a graduate of Denver High School, Class of 1947, and a lifetime citizen of Denver. He worked as a production laborer for RCA for many years prior to his retirement. He was an avid walker and was known to many as "the old man who walks." He always carried Milk-Bones with him in case he met up with any dogs along the way. Charles is survived by two sisters: Nadine J. Leid of Denver; Madeline J., wife of C. Frederick Glass of Pine Bush, N.Y.; four nephews: Timothy S. and Matthew T. Leid; Andrew S. and Benjamin C. Glass; and a niece: Kathleen Moyer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother: Thomas O. Henly.


Eleanore "Ellie" G. (Yerger) Root, long-time resident of Ephrata, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2019, at Maple Farms Nursing Center, after a courageous battle with Lewy body dementia. Born Dec. 8, 1942 in Reading, Ellie was a ball of energy and a force to be reckoned with from the start. Blessed with wanderlust, she had a love of travel and was fortunate to have explored widely throughout her life. Some of her most notable treks were to China, Alaska, Hawaii, the Caribbean, and several trips to Europe. She took numerous trips across the United States with friends and family members, quite often packing up her grandchildren for a last minute adventure. Nothing was more important to Ellie than her family, and she spent a great deal of time attending their activities, games, and a yearly family vacation to the beach full of chaos, fun, and laughter. Ellie received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Penn State University in 1984, a certification in driver's education, and a Master's of Science in education from Wilkes University in 2005. Known affectionately as "Mama Root" by her students, she was a substitute teacher throughout Lancaster County for 17 years, before serving as a beloved driver's education teacher and senior class advisor at Cocalico High School. She retired in 2011. In addition to teaching, she was a licensed practical nurse and an entrepreneur, running Seidel's Photo Service and TJ Sports Den with her husband for more than 28 years. Service was important to Ellie and she served as a Girl Scout leader and neighborhood coordinator for many years. She also taught Sunday school. For several years, she served as a member of the Ephrata Civil Service Commission, and was always one of the most enthusiastic fans at all of her children's and grandchildren's' sporting events (of which there were many). She was the proud wife of Richard L. Root for 50 years before his death in 2013. She was the loving mother of four children: Tammy Frey (Steve), Jodi Guild (Andy), Todd (Kelie), and Jeff (Brienna); and a grandmother of seven: Mandy Hill (Adam), Abby Frey, Josh Frey (Alexa), Lauren, Maggie, Kennedy, and Madison Root. She also served as a surrogate mother and grandmother throughout her entire life. Ellie is survived by four sisters: Mary Ludwig, Suzie Pacharis (Gary), Betty Gerhart (James), and Deborah Stohl (Joe); and a brother: Robert Yerger (Elizabeth); along with numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents: Paul and Grace (Mogel) Yerger, of Angelica.

## Calling all Cocalico Alumni

Field Hockey Players!
Join us for free at a Cocalico Field Hockey game, as we recognize your years of service on the team during the game.


The game is September 30th, starting at 7:15 p.m., on Talon Field. Refreshments will be provided after the game for all of the alumni.

To confirm your attendance, email Booster Club President ■ Beth Haldeman at beth haldeman@cocalico.org. In the email, note the years that you played for Cocalico.

We hope you can join us!

The Cocalico Class of 1984 will be holding their 35th Reunion on August 10th at the Beverly Hills Tavern. The fun will begin late afternoon/early evening and will be held outside at the Dock. If inclement weather, the event will be moved inside. For more information, please contact: cocalicoclassof84@yahoo.com


## DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Citizens, age 65 \& over and living within the Cocalico School District, are eligible for special lifetime passes which admit them without charge to all HOME sporting, drama, and musical events. These passes can be obtained by visiting the Administration Office at the front of the senior high school during normal business hours.

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# Alumni Happenings 



Thomas and Ruth Gosnell of Denver announce the marriage of their daughter Crystal to her friend, Raphael John. The wedding took place at the Trinity Bible College in Anyigba, Nigeria on March 30.

The couple met at Ministry of Mercy, a home for orphans and the handicapped in Kogi State, Nigeria where Crystal served as director of education for the past 15 years.

Crystal's parents, sister, Renee Harper, and niece, Charla Harper, attended the wedding. Pastor Frank Rice of Grace Fellowship Church in Ephrata officiated.

Crystal, Raphael, her new husband, and her adopted son, Thomas Emmanuel, will be residing in Abuja, Nigeria.

Crystal was featured as an Alumni in the Spotlight in our Spring 2014 issue of the Alumni Newsletter. Congratulations Crystal \& John!

Family and friends were gathered on June 1, 2019 under sunny skies to witness the marriage of Nathan Schlegel to his high school sweetheart, Amy.
Amy is the daughter of Wayne and Gail Bawks of Reamstown. She is a 2014 graduate of Cocalico High School. She is employed by WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital as an emergency department nursing assistant. Nathan is the son of Nevin and Carla Schlegel of Denver. He is a 2014 graduate of Cocalico High School. He is employed by
 WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital as a HVAC mechanic.
The Schlegels were wed at The Copper Horse Barn in Ephrata. The wedding party included: best man Chris Hoffa, groomsmen Cord Earhart and Brinton Schlegel; maid of honor Ashley Zemeski, bridesmaids Hannah Stoltzfus and Jane Huber; flower girls Audrianna Earhart and Madeline Burton, and ring bearer Jeffrey Earhart. The couples' beloved golden retriever, Melody, also shared in the celebration.
Following a honeymoon to Lexington, Va., the pair will reside in Denver. Nathan Schlegel and Amy Bawks met in English class in 10th grade at Cocalico High School. Their love continued to blossom throughout the years, and on June 1 they became husband and wife. After they exchanged their own handwritten vows, the celebration continued in a big way on the dance floor. As music played, the groom's parents, Nevin and Carla, popped confetti guns over the bride and groom, and their dancing guests. It was a celebrating to remember. Best wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Schlegel!

